

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 12-19 and 32 are amended. The claims are amended for clarification purpose only, and not for reasons of patentability. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Entry of the amendment is requested under 37 CFR § 1.116 because the amendment: a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) do not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of final rejected claims; and d) place the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the October 16, 2006 telephonic interview. During the interview, Applicants' representative requested clarification for claim 1 to overcome the objections and rejections under 112, second paragraph. The Examiner clarified his position and suggested language to obviate the objections and rejections. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 19 and 32 as suggested by the Examiner, and submit that all objections and rejections are now moot. Thus, as no issues are present in this application, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 19 and 32 are allowed; and claims 21-31 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 19 and 32 to obviate the rejections, and thus allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 1 is objected to due to informalities. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that “providing a graphical user interface that allows a user to selectively populate a loading map which represents fuel bundles” is unclear.

Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION-35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. Applicants have amended claims 1, 19 and 32 to include a step of “placing the fuel bundles in the at least one fuel pool according to the selected loading map”, as suggested in the Office Action.¹

Further, Applicants have amended claims 1, 19 and 32 by removing the term “aiding”, as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION-35 U.S.C § 102

I. Sadaoka

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sadaoka et al. (“Sadaoka”) U.S. Patent 4,988,476. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed and agreed by the Examiner, Sadaoka fails to disclose or suggest a method of facilitating recovery of nuclear fuel from a fuel pool, comprising, *at least* “the graphical user interface includes one or more loading tools for selecting and moving a filtered fuel pool table to a reload fuel table”, as recited in claim 1.

Sadaoka discloses evaluating for deformations of a channel box of a fuel assembly in a nuclear reactor core in which deformations of the channel box which has been used for exposure. The evaluation to be deformed are estimated for a future exposure computation and process of data of core characteristics, data of material properties and shapes of channel boxes, data of initial deformations of the channel box, data of loading patterns and the like. Accordingly, the evaluation determines whether the estimated deformations are agreeable for reusing the channeled box in the future exposure (Abstract).

¹ Office Action, page 3, first full paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Sadoaka is completely silent with regard to “graphical user interface including one or more loading tools for selecting and moving a filtered fuel pool table to a reload fuel table”, as recited in claim 1.

Because Sadoaka fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, it cannot provide a basis for a rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. O’Sullivan

Claims 1-7 and 9-18 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by “MICROBURN-B2 to RETRAN-linking code” by Donald Hines and “CPW for Simulate-3” by Kevin O’Sullivan (hereinafter “O’Sullivan”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed and agreed by the Examiner, Applicants submit that O’Sullivan fails to disclose or suggest “providing a graphical user interface; selectively populating a loading map by a user which represents fuel bundles residing in at least one fuel pool, wherein the graphical user interface includes one or more loading tools for selecting and moving a filtered fuel pool table to a reload fuel table”, as recited in claim 1.

Instead, O’Sullivan discloses linking codes to transfer necessary data so that an onset of transient, RETRAN-3d as modeling the same core with the same power distribution and feedback characteristics. Thus, O’Sullivan fails to disclose or even mention that the graphical user interfacing includes one or more loading tools that aids in selecting and moving a filter fuel pool table to a reload fuel pool table. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over O’Sullivan.

Claims 2-7 and 9-18 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 1, and for the features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

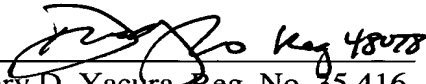
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 
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